Maryland
Department of Economic &
Employment Development

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

A Monthly Report on the Dynamics of the Labor Market in Maryland

August, 1989

Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
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LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
AUGUST, 1989

MARYLAND

As seasonal economic activity began winding down in August, Maryland's civilian labor force declined by 46,898, to 2,568,734 persons. Last year the slowdown between July and August was slightly less. With students and other seasonal workers starting to leave summer jobs, and the loss of thousands of striking communications workers in the telephone industry, resident employment dropped by 43,895 to 2,469,834. Unemployment was reduced by 3,003 to 98,900 persons as some left the labor force and others were recalled from temporary layoffs. The unemployment rate remained steady at 3.9 percent.

Compared with last August, the state's labor force has swelled by almost 86,000, with about 92,000 more Marylanders employed and over 11,000 fewer unemployed. Last August's jobless rate stood at 4.4 percent of the labor force.

The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent in August, down from 5.3 percent in July. As was the case in Maryland, both the employment and unemployment components of the labor force declined. Joblessness improved from last August's rate of 5.4 percent.

	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988
Civilian Labor Force	2,568,734	2,615,632	2,482,842
Total Employment	2,469,834	2,513,729	2,372,706
Total Unemployment	98,900	101,903	110,136
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	4.4
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.3	5.4

Depressed by a major strike in the telephone communications industry, nonfarm employment declined by 12,600 in August. The strike, which lasted through most of August, affected employment levels throughout the state. Other industry trends were mixed, with losers outnumbering gainers.

According to the monthly establishment survey, manufacturing netted a total of 700 jobs in August. Durable goods payrolls decreased by 200, in part due to a temporary layoff in machinery production. Nondurable goods factories added 900, with recalls in apparel and textile products, and rubber and plastic products. Nonmanufacturing employment dropped 13,300 over the month. Gains were reported in construction (+600), wholesale trade (+100), and state government (+100). Losses occurred in transportation, communication, and public utilities (-9,000), retail trade (-900), finance, insurance, and real estate (-100), federal government (-500), and local government (-3,600), which was diminished by reductions in education employment. Both mining and services were unchanged over the month.

Compared with August 1988, nonfarm employment has risen by 31,900. All growth occurred among nonmanufacturers, as manufacturing jobs were reduced by 4,200. The entire loss was absorbed by producers of durable goods, particularly in transportation equipment, electrical and electronic equipment, and machinery. Nondurables employment was flat. Nonmanufacturing jobs rose by 23,500 over the year. Services, (especially health services) was the top growth area. Other advancing industries included government, wholesale and retail trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate. Declines were observed in transportation, communication, and public utilities (strike-related), construction, and mining.

The average workweek for production workers in manufacturing remained unchanged at 41.4 hours in August. A slight increase in weekly hours among durable goods workers was eliminated by a marginal decrease in nondurable goods work hours. In the Baltimore Metropolitan Area hours for production workers rose 0.4 of an hour to 41.5 hours.

Weekly earnings for manufacturing payrolls rose to $456.23 in August, up from $452.09 in July, mainly reflecting an increase in hourly earnings. Hourly pay averaged $11.02 in August, up from $10.92 in July. Durable goods workers earned an average of $11.66 per hour, compared with earnings of $10.35 per hour in nondurable goods. Hourly wages ranged from a low of $7.19 in apparel and textile products to a high of $15.33 in primary metal industries. In the Baltimore area average weekly earnings climbed from $472.24 in July to $477.67 in August, as both weekly hours and hourly earnings increased marginally. Hourly pay rose $0.02 to $11.51.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(IN THOUSANDS)
AUGUST 1989

Major Industry Group	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2123.0	2135.6	2103.7
Manufacturing	207.3	206.6	211.5
Durable Goods	108.9	109.1	113.1
Nondurable Goods	98.4	97.5	98.4
Nonmanufacturing	1915.7	1929.0	1892.2
Mining	1.7	1.7	1.8
Construction	167.2	166.6	168.2
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	87.1	96.1	96.7
Wholesale and Retail Trade	545.7	546.5	539.2
Wholesale Trade	115.0	114.9	112.1
Retail Trade	430.7	431.6	427.1
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	134.5	134.6	132.4
Services	587.2	587.2	572.3
Total Government	392.3	396.3	381.8
Federal	133.9	134.4	132.1
State	89.1	89.0	87.9
Local	169.3	172.9	161.8

* The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Additional industry detail available upon request.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
AUGUST 1989

Major Industry Grouping	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS		AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS	
	Aug. 1989	July 1989	Aug. 1989	July 1989	Aug. 1989	July 1989
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.4	41.4	$456.23	$452.09	$11.02	$10.92
Durable Goods	42.6	42.3	496.72	488.99	11.66	11.56
Lumber and Wood Products	39.5	39.9	334.96	340.35	8.48	8.53
Furniture and Fixtures	40.7	42.2	413.51	424.53	10.16	10.06
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	46.0	45.2	516.12	493.13	11.22	10.91
Primary Metal Industries	43.0	43.0	659.19	655.75	15.33	15.25
Fabricated Metals	41.2	39.9	414.88	392.62	10.07	9.84
Machinery, Exc. Electrical	41.9	42.2	509.09	519.06	12.15	12.30
Electronic and Electrical Equipment	44.8	44.9	439.04	442.27	9.80	9.85
Transportation Equipment	41.8	40.5	609.44	575.10	14.58	14.20
Instruments and Related	39.5	39.1	382.76	373.80	9.69	9.56
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Indus.	39.4	39.0	348.69	349.05	8.85	8.95
Nondurable Goods	40.3	40.4	417.11	414.10	10.35	10.25
Food and Kindred Products	41.4	42.4	398.27	409.58	9.62	9.66
Apparel and Textile Products	36.6	37.5	263.15	271.13	7.19	7.23
Paper and Allied Products	41.5	40.4	388.86	379.36	9.37	9.39
Printing and Publishing	38.1	37.9	484.25	466.17	12.71	12.30
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.0	42.2	527.10	515.26	12.55	12.21
Rubber and Plastic Products	43.8	43.7	402.08	406.41	9.18	9.30
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	41.5	41.1	$477.67	$472.24	$11.51	$11.49
Durable Goods	42.2	41.6	513.57	502.94	12.17	12.09
Nondurable Goods	40.6	40.5	434.83	436.19	10.71	10.77

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Unemployment in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area was unchanged in August, remaining at 4.3 percent. The region's labor force declined over the month, with employment dropping by 19,008, and unemployment reduced by 629. All jurisdictions experienced a decrease in employment, while unemployment either rose or fell marginally. An exception was Harford County, with a significant drop in unemployment due to recalls from two vacation shutdowns in July. Compared with August of last year, resident employment was up by nearly 42,000, unemployment down by about 4,300, and the jobless rate reduced from 4.8 percent.

Nonagricultural payroll employment in the metropolitan area fell by 8,200 in August. All losses were concentrated in nonmanufacturing, as manufacturing jobs were up by 400. Producers of durables and nondurables each added 200, partly a result of recalls in apparel and textiles, and rubber and plastics. Nonmanufacturing payrolls declined by 8,600. The biggest loss (-4,700) occurred in transportation, communication, and public utilities--a result of the aforementioned labor dispute. Local government dropped by 3,700, mostly in education. Federal employment fell by 100, while state jobs increased by 200. Other declines were recorded in construction (-300), services and mining (-300), and wholesale trade (-200). The only private sector industries to expand over the month were retail trade (+400), and finance, insurance, and real estate (+100). Since August 1988, nonfarm payrolls have increased by 8,900. Manufacturing jobs, however, were down by 3,000, almost all in durable goods. Electric and electronic equipment and transportation equipment producers accounted for virtually all of the loss. Nonmanufacturing concerns advanced by 11,900, despite a significant drop in transportation, communication, and public utilities. Services and mining were responsible for 7 out of 10 of these new jobs, with health services a major factor. All other industry groups, with the exception of construction, grew over the year.

MARYLAND'S D.C. AREA SUBURBS

A gain of 57 unemployed, coupled with a decline of 19,897 employed, caused joblessness to climb from 2.9 percent in July to 3.0 percent in August in Maryland's Washington area suburbs. The region remained the state's lowest unemployment area, with Montgomery County, at 2.4 percent, tied with Worcester County for lowest jobless rate. Little change was noted over the month in the region's counties, with the exception of Frederick, which experienced a moderate rise in unemployment due to two temporary layoffs in durable goods factories. A year ago area unemployment stood at 3.5 percent. About 41,000 fewer residents were employed, while almost 4,400 more were unemployed.

Nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 6,300 in August, with manufacturing down by 1,000 and nonmanufacturing reduced by 5,300. Durable goods payrolls fell by 800, in part due to layoffs in primary metals and machinery production. Nondurable goods employment decreased by 200, affected by a slight drop in printing and publishing. Among nonmanufacturers, a sizable loss occurred in transportation, communication, and public utilities (-3,900), with lesser declines apparent in local government (-1,300), services and mining (-600), and retail trade (-200). Gains were recorded in construction (+100), wholesale trade (+300), finance, insurance, and real estate (+100), federal government (+100), and state government (+100). Since last August, at-place employment has risen by 11,000. Manufacturers lost a total of 300, as an expansion in nondurable goods were negated by a decline in durables. Nonmanufacturers added 10,600, despite a considerable reduction in transportation, communication, and public utilities employment. As for the remaining industry divisions, healthy employment growth during the past year was the norm.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Unemployment fell from 6.2 to 5.8 percent in Western Maryland, as the region reached its lowest level of unemployment for August this decade. Recalls from two July layoffs helped improve the monthly picture. Although the number of employed residents dropped by 2,043, the jobless rolls were also reduced by 630. Last August unemployment registered 6.9 percent of the labor force. Over 1,000 more area residents were unemployed, while about 3,700 fewer held jobs. Despite this positive trend, the western counties remain the state's highest unemployment area. Allegany posted the top jobless rate for the state in August, with Garrett second.

Nonfarm payroll employment was at a standstill in Western Maryland in August. A gain of 300 jobs in manufacturing was eliminated by an equal loss in nonmanufacturing. The rise in factory employment occurred among producers of nondurable goods, mostly a result of recalls in apparel and textiles. Advancing industries also included construction (+100), and federal government (+100). Employment was down over the month in transportation, communication, and public utilities (-200), wholesale and retail trade (-100), state government (-100), and local government (-100). Compared with last August, nonagricultural jobs have increased by a total of 800. Manufacturing, however, was down by 400, led by a drop in transportation equipment employment. Nonmanufacturing payrolls rose by 1,200, with gains in all industry groups except local government and transportation, communication, and public utilities, both of which declined.

BALANCE OF STATE

The labor force declined in the Balance of State region in August, as the number of employed dropped by 3,578, and the number of unemployed fell by 1,801. This sizable reduction in the jobless ranks, due primarily to recalls from several manufacturing layoffs, caused the area's unemployment rate to fall from 5.2 to 4.5 percent. Trends among the region's counties were mixed, however, as new layoffs raised joblessness in some areas. Unemployment was up notably in Talbot, Caroline, and Wicomico Counties, with temporary layoffs in manuacturers of machinery and equipment, glass products. and chemicals and allied products, along with a permanent closing of a packaging firm. Cecil and Dorchester Counties, however, posted significant decreases in unemployment, with recalls in two food processors and one electronics firm, as well as a return to work in the auto industry in Wilmington, Delaware. As compared with last August, the region has improved from a 5.3 percent jobless rate, has over 6,200 more residents working, and about 1,500 fewer unemployed.

The August establishment survey reported a decline of 1,300 nonfarm jobs in the Balance of State area. Manufacturing showed a net loss of 200 jobs, as nondurable goods was up 100, and durable goods down 300, mainly a result of a drop in electrical and electronics equipment. Nonmanufacturing payrolls fell by 1,100, with local government (+100), the only growth area. Declining industries were led by transportation, communication, and public utilities (-500), followed by wholesale and retail trade (-400), services and mining (-200), and construction (-100). Finance, insurance, and real estate, and federal and state governments, were all unchanged over the month. Since August 1988, nonfarm employment has decreased by 500. The entire loss occurred in manufacturing, as nonmanufacturing overall was flat. Among manufacturers, both durables and nondurables were down, with reductions in electrical and electronics employment a factor. In nonmanufacturing, services was the top gainer, with health services up significantly. Both federal and state government jobs also rose, while the remaining nonmanufacturing groups either declined or were unchanged.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--AUGUST 1989

Major Industry Grouping	BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA		MARYLAND PORTION D.C. SUBURBS		WESTERN MARYLAND		BALANCE OF STATE	
	Aug.1989	July 1989	Aug.1989	July 1989	Aug.1989	July 1989	Aug.1989	July 1989
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1127.1	1135.3	757.0	763.3	90.5	90.5	143.1	144.4
Manufacturing	130.4	130.0	35.8	36.8	15.6	15.3	24.4	24.6
Durable Goods	73.6	73.4	17.8	18.6	7.4	7.4	9.4	9.7
Nondurable Goods	56.8	56.6	18.0	18.2	8.2	7.9	15.0	14.9
Nonmanufacturing	996.7	1005.3	721.2	726.5	74.9	75.2	118.7	119.8
Construction	78.8	79.1	69.7	69.6	7.0	6.9	10.8	10.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	51.1	55.8	24.2	28.1	4.8	5.0	7.1	7.6
Wholesale and Retail Trade	278.9	278.7	205.0	204.9	25.9	26.0	38.2	38.6
Wholesale Trade	68.1	68.3	36.9	36.6	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	210.8	210.4	168.1	168.3	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	79.0	78.9	46.4	46.3	3.4	3.4	5.4	5.4
Services and Mining	305.5	305.8	226.4	227.0	20.4	20.4	33.6	33.8
Total Government	203.4	207.0	149.5	150.6	13.4	13.5	23.6	23.5
Federal	53.3	53.4	71.7	71.6	2.2	2.1	6.8	6.8
State	65.7	65.5	15.5	15.4	4.0	4.1	4.5	4.5
Local	84.4	88.1	62.3	63.6	7.2	7.3	12.3	12.2

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the munth.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request. Current data preliminary; previcus month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

AUGUST, 1989

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	AUGUST	JULY*	AUGUST	JULY*	AUGUST	JULY*	AUGUST	JULY*	AUG. '88
MARYLAND	2,568,734	2,615,632	2,469,834	2,513,729	98,900	101,903	3.9	3.9	4.4
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,227,999	1,247,636	1,175,280	1,194,288	52,719	53,348	4.3	4.3	4.8
BALTIMORE CITY	353,101	358,075	329,406	334,734	23,695	23,341	6.7	6.5	7.4
ANNE ARUNDEL	220,228	223,597	213,510	216,963	6,718	6,634	3.1	3.0	3.4
BALTIMORE	397,916	404,070	383,312	389,512	14,604	14,558	3.7	3.6	4.2
CARROLL	63,565	64,638	61,979	62,981	1,586	1,657	2.5	2.6	2.7
HARFORD	83,161	85,421	79,840	81,131	3,321	4,290	4.0	5.0	4.2
HOWARD	94,125	95,607	91,743	93,226	2,382	2,381	2.5	2.5	3.0
QUEEN ANNE'S	15,904	16,228	15,490	15,741	414	487	2.6	3.0	2.9
D. C. AREA	1,017,836	1,037,676	987,583	1,007,480	30,253	30,196	3.0	2.9	3.5
CALVERT	23,637	24,094	22,751	23,209	886	885	3.7	3.7	4.8
CHARLES	48,929	49,938	47,539	48,497	1,390	1,441	2.8	2.9	3.7
FREDERICK	79,146	80,311	76,298	77,835	2,848	2,476	3.6	3.1	3.5
MONTGOMERY	435,346	444,177	424,779	433,337	10,567	10,840	2.4	2.4	2.9
PRINCE GEORGE'S	430,778	439,156	416,216	424,602	14,562	14,554	3.4	3.3	4.1
WESTERN MARYLAND	106,758	108,801	100,598	102,011	6,160	6,790	5.8	6.2	6.9
ALLEGANY	32,973	33,808	30,420	30,910	2,553	2,898	7.7	8.6	8.6
GARRETT	13,742	13,864	12,791	12,910	951	954	6.9	6.9	8.3
WASHINGTON	60,043	61,129	57,387	58,191	2,656	2,938	4.4	4.8	5.7
BALANCE OF STATE	216,138	221,517	206,371	209,949	9,767	11,568	4.5	5.2	5.3
CAROLINE	14,209	14,298	13,612	13,802	597	496	4.2	3.5	4.5
CECIL	35,781	36,965	33,857	33,541	1,924	3,424	5.4	9.3	8.1
DORCHESTER	17,416	18,431	16,646	16,899	770	1,532	4.4	8.3	5.4
KENT	9,270	9,692	8,957	9,166	313	526	3.4	5.4	4.7
ST. MARY'S	39,960	40,758	38,405	39,128	1,555	1,630	3.9	4.0	4.7
SOMERSET	11,954	12,283	11,228	11,512	726	771	6.1	6.3	5.7
TALBOT	17,082	17,303	16,282	16,754	800	549	4.7	3.2	4.7
WICOMICO	41,592	41,901	39,202	39,990	2,390	1,911	5.7	4.6	5.5
WORCESTER	28,874	29,886	28,182	29,157	692	729	2.4	2.4	2.8
[1] UNITED STATES	125,444,000	126,238,000	119,092,000	119,502,000	6,352,000	6,736,000	5.1	5.3	5.4

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

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